

EG&G ROCKY FLATS

EG&G ROCKY FLATS INC.
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June 2 1992

92 RF 6225

Terry A. Vaeth
Manager
DOE RFO

Attn: F R Lockhart

DESCRIPTION OF HYDROPHILIC VEGETATION AT OU1 FRENCH DRAIN (6034)
JEE-0403-92

With reference to your letter of May 28 1992 the requested detailed description of extant and emerging vegetation (new wetlands) at OU1 is attached for your consideration.

In addition EG&G would like to clarify use of the term "wetland". "Wetland" as used to date in documents relating to OU1 refers to a jurisdictional wetland rather than a true fully functional wetland. Jurisdictional wetlands at OU1 are characterized only by the presence of hydrophilic vegetation (willows, bulrushes, and cattails) and do not meet all criteria (soil type, hydrology, geology, saturated soil for 15 or more days per year, etc.) which define true wetlands. Hydrophilic vegetation at OU1 is not sufficiently developed to fulfill any functions other than habitat functions normally ascribed to true wetlands under the Clean Water Act.

Therefore EG&G will use the term "Hydrophilic Vegetation Habitat" to identify a broad class of habitats which contain water loving plants but which do not otherwise meet all criteria required of a true wetland. EG&G's intent is to limit the confusion and undue concern engendered by application of the term "wetland" to inappropriate situations. "Wetland" will be reserved for identification of habitat fulfilling functions normally ascribed to true wetlands.

If there are any questions or concerns please contact Steve Nesra on 8605 or Richard Flory on X8680.


J. E. Evered, Director
Environmental Management

BKH:bmb

Orig and 1 cc T. A. Vaeth

Attachment
As Stated

ADMIN RECORD

1-1000-1-1000-70

DESCRIPTION OF HYDROPHILIC VEGETATION AT OU1

- (1) There are several small (1-2 meter (m) in diameter) patches of cattail (*Typha latifolia*) and bulrushes (*Scirpus spp*) in moist, shallow depressions running downslope and west of Building 881 s southwest corner
- (2) Approximately 75 m from Building 881 s southwest corner near the western terminus of the French Drain, are a stand of 6-8 cottonwood trees (*Populus sargentii*) (DBH ~25 cm) surrounding a shallow pond. The pond stands in a depression created by the upper berm of the South Interceptor Ditch (SID). The pond is deep enough (~1 m) to support amphibians as frogs were heard calling from it in late April.
- (3) Approximately 35 m east and 100 m south of Building 881 s southwest corner near the former site of surface water station 46 (SW46) there is one large (DBH ~0.50 m) and one small (DBH ~0.20 m) cottonwood tree. These overlook the former site of the Skimming Pond which was removed during French Drain construction.
- (4) A small (~1-2 m in diameter) shallow and fairly dry depression is located approximately 10 m due south of the trees listed in Item (3) above and immediately west of the former site of the Skimming Pond. The depression contains a few emergent cattails and bulrushes.
- (5) There is a large (~10 m in diameter) shallow (~0.5 m deep) pond approximately 100 m due south of Building 881 s southeast corner. Approximately 20 small (DBH ~1.5 cm) cottonwood trees are emerging along the pond's northeast edge. In addition to these trees the pond contains bulrushes around its entire perimeter and a substantial stand of cattails in its center. Surface water station 45 (SW45) is located immediately adjacent to the pond's northern edge. The pond sits behind a berm and in a shallow depression which are a mixture of natural and construction-derived features.
- (6) A shallow (~0.5-1 m deep) narrow (~0.5-1.5 m wide) eroded gully carries water from near the southeast corner of Building 881 to the pond described in Item (4) above. The water source appears to be a combination of road runoff and Building 881 footer drain leakage. The gully contains limited amounts of vegetation consisting mostly of grasses intermixed with a few thickets of bulrushes. A Russian Olive tree is located in the gully approximately 4 m north of the pond in Item (4) above.
- (7) A shallow (~0.5-1 m deep) narrow (~0.5-1.5 m wide) eroded gully carries water from a point due east of the pond in Item (4) above and east of the southeast corner of Building 881 downslope to a culvert running under the pea gravel construction road located north of the French Drain alignment. The water source for this gully appears to be a combination of road runoff and Building 881 footer drain leakage. After exiting the culvert the surficial water crosses the French Drain and enters the SID.
- (8) There are several other small (~1-2 m in diameter) shallow and fairly dry depressions located across the 881 Hillside below the boundary fence and above the French Drain alignment which contain a few emergent cattails and bulrushes. These depressions apparently result from a combination of natural hillside slumping and construction activities.